TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

First Session, 1099.

Thursday the 12th June, 1924.

The Council met again in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall at Eleven Thirty-nine of the Clock with the President in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President under Standing Order No. 12*—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table 15 minutes before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner :—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in serial order, specify the serial number of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place, if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Buildings Taken on Rent by the Government.

351. MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Will the Government be pleased to place on the table a list of buildings in the town of Trivandrum for which rent is being paid by the Government, stating the name of the owner, the annual rent and the name and location of each building ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The list *asked for by the member is laid on the table.

Shertallai Canal.

352. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the length of the Shertallai canal and the roads connected with it already opened, at the Alleppey and Shertallai ends, and the total cost of the same;

(*b*) the amount paid for acquiring the land through which the canal is to run;

(*c*) whether there is a broad sandy path, opened as a famine relief work, sometime ago, running from Alleppey to Shertallai;

(*d*) whether the whole or a portion of the canal cannot be taken along this sandy pathway;

Vide appendix I – page 1207.

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[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

(*e*) whether it is true that the route marked out for the canal is mostly through uninhabited areas;

(*f*) whether it will not be necessary to construct high bridges across the canal to allow steam and motor boats to pass under, and whether such high bridges will not prevent wheeled traffic from one side of the canal to the other;

(*g*) whether there is a low-lying ground in the western part of the taluk running through the inhabited portions of the taluk with a string of pools and ponds through which the canal could be constructed much more easily and with greater advantage to the people and much less expenditure;

(*h*) whether any damage was caused to the canal by floods and the cyclone, and, if so, what amount has been spent in repairing the damages;

(*i*) the cost per mile of road that is being constructed by the side of the canal;

(*j*) whether it is a fact that a road is being constructed or is proposed to be constructed on each side of the canal;

(*k*) what necessity there is to construct both a canal and one or two roads on its side or sides;

(*l*) whether it is a fact that the cocoanut cultivation has suffered by the opening of the canal;

(*m*) whether the canal will not increase the breeding area for the mosquito;

(*n*) the reasons which weighed with the Government for abandoning or delaying the construction of the canal a few years ago; and

(*o*) whether it is true that Mr. Bastow or any other Chief Engineer was against the opening of the canal?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The length of the canal already opened is about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles at the Alleppey end and a mile at the Shertallai end. The total length of road opened is a mile and it runs on the west bank of the canal at Alleppey end. The total cost of the project up to the end of Kanni 1099 is Rs. 5,07,000.

(*b*) Rs. 2,57,240.

(*c*) There is a sandy path, but it is not known whether it was opened as a famine relief work or not.

(*d*) It is not expedient to do so, the land along the pathway being comparatively high and the present alignment of the canal being the best in point of cost of cutting.

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(*e*) It is not true that the route of the canal runs through uninhabited areas.

(*f*) The height of the bank varies from ten to twenty feet. The question of constructing bridges to admit of steam and motor boats passing under will not arise for many years to come and its consideration is premature.

(*g*) There is low-lying land at the western margin of the taluk. It will not serve the purpose of the canal so well as the present alignment which lies in the direct line of communication from Alleppey to Shertallai and is midway between the sea and the backwater.

(*h*) Some damages were caused in 1097. They were repaired at a cost of Rs. 1,800. There were slight damages in 1098 also. The repair of these damages would cost below Rs. 1,000.

(*i*) Rs. 24,000 for the first mile. Beyond it, the cost would be less.

(*j*) It is proposed to construct a road on one bank of the canal only.

(*k*) To get the full benefit of the canal, a cartable road at least on one bank is necessary.

(*l*) Government have no information.

(*m*) No. If anything, the canal will lessen the chances of mosquito-breeding, because the country will be better drained and the water in the canal will be subject to the tides and the flow of storm water.

(*n*) The member is referred to the answer to interpellation No. 54, page 644, of No. 5, Vol. I., of the Council Proceedings.

(*o*) The opinion of the majority of engineering officers is in favour of the work.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): According to the answer to part (*a*), the amount that has already been spent is Rs. 5,07,000. What will be the total estimated cost to complete the canal?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is not possible to ascertain now what the total cost would be.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Has any estimate been prepared?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I am not sure whether an estimate has been prepared for the whole length of the canal.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): With reference to the answer to part (*c*) of my question, was any enquiry made whether the sandy path that I referred to was constructed during the famine time?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I should like to know which is the famine time referred to.

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[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): My information is that the sandy path was made during famine time.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government have no information on that point.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): With reference to part (*e*), is it not true that the route of the canal runs through uninhabited places? Does it not run mostly through uninhabited areas?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There are inhabited areas along the route chosen.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it not true that the route of the canal runs through uninhabited areas? I simply want to know whether a large portion of the canal runs through inhabited or uninhabited areas.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It runs through uninhabited areas also.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): In part (*m*) of my question I have asked whether the canal would not increase the breeding area for the mosquito. May I know whether it is so?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The answer is there.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): It is stated in answer to part (*m*) "If anything, the canal will lessen the chances of mosquito-breeding, because the country will be better drained and the water in the canal will be subject to the tides and the flow of storm water." Are the Government aware that soaking of husks is carried on in almost all the tanks in nearly all the compounds in Shertallai?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are the Government aware that the water of these tanks is rendered absolutely poisonous and is becoming the breeding place for mosquitos?

PRESIDENT: It has absolutely no connection with the question.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): There is connection between the two questions. It is stated there that the canal will serve as a drainage. It is with reference to that that I am asking the Government whether they are aware that large quantities of husks are being soaked in all the tanks in nearly all the compounds at Shertallai and that the water is becoming the breeding place for mosquitos and how this canal will drain away thousands and thousands of tanks in Shertallai.

PRESIDENT: It is merely surface flow.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): It is stated as answer to part (*o*) of my question that the opinion of the majority of engineering officers is in favour of the work. What are the opinions of Messrs. Bastow and Jacob?

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MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Mr. Bastow's opinion was that a very careful study of the problem should be made before proceeding further. That was the opinion recorded in 1915.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): In reply to my question as to what necessity there is to construct both a canal and one or two roads on its side, it is stated that, to get the full benefit of the canal, a cartable road at least on one bank is necessary.

PRESIDENT: Which part of the answer are you referring to?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Part (*k*). It is stated there, 'To get the full benefit of the canal a cartable road at least on one bank is necessary." May I know whether instead of having a canal and a road on one of its banks, a road alone would not be sufficient?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): We have come to part (*o*) of the question. Is he justified in going back to part (*k*)?

PRESIDENT: The supplementary question relates to the same question. There is therefore no harm in going back.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): By having one cart road and without having approach roads, of what use will the canal and the road be?

PRESIDENT: The approach road will come later on.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know whether large launches can ply through this canal?

PRESIDENT: How does it arise? Which part of the answer are you referring to?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I am referring to all the answers.

PRESIDENT: You must refer to a definite part of the answer and then put the supplementary question.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): My question relates to part (*k*), as to the necessity of the canal. I wish to know whether large launches will be able to ply through this canal.

PRESIDENT: That does not arise out of the answer.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are the Government aware that large *kettuvallams* are not likely to ply through this canal?

PRESIDENT: How does it arise out of the answer? The answer says: "To get the full benefit of the canal, a cartable road at least on one bank is necessary."

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): The whole of my question deals with the necessity of the canal—whether we want it or not.

PRESIDENT: That may be. That is a different matter. How does your question arise from the answer?

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[Mr. A Hoogewerf.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF: (*Nominated*): It arises, considering the whole question.

Are the Government aware that the cocoanut plantations on both sides of the canal are suffering owing to the opening of the canal?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The answer is in part (*b*).

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are the Government aware that for half a mile and more from the *vallakkadavu* to the Karamanai river the cocoanut plantations on both sides of the canal are suffering on account of the opening of that canal?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government have no information.

Agricultural Loans.

353. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the particulars mentioned below, regarding the grant of loans under the Agricultural Loans Regulation:—

(i) the names of persons who applied for loans of Rs. 1,000 and more from 1096 to the end of 1098 as well as the amounts of such loans;

(ii) the names of the persons who, among the applicants, were granted loans and the amounts of the loans so granted; and

(iii) the purpose for which the loan was obtained in each case?

(*b*) Have those amounts been utilised for the purpose mentioned at the time when the loans were applied for?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) (i), (ii), (iii) and (*b*) The information required by the member is available for his perusal in the office of the Secretary to the Legislative Council.

Applications for Agricultural Loans.

354. MR. A. GOVINDA MENON (*Alangad* cum *Parur*): Will the Government be pleased to state the number of applications for agricultural loans in 1098 and up to the beginning of Dhanu, 1099, the names of the applicants, the amounts applied for and the result of such applications in each case, as also the reasons for the delay, if any, in the disposal of the applications in 1099?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The member is referred to the answer to question No. 353.

Revenue of the State and Expenditure on Salaries and Pension.

355. MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to place on the table a statement showing the following particulars:

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